



# WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER

Wisconsin Field Office P.O. Box 8934 · Madison, WI 53708-8934

(608) 224-4848 · (608) 224-4855 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov/wi](http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi) E-mail: [nass-wi@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wi@nass.usda.gov)

Compiled in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and is available on request.

Robert J. Battaglia, Director

## April Milk Production

Wisconsin milk production totaled 2.20 billion pounds in April, up 128 million pounds from April 2009. Milk per cow averaged 1,745 pounds, 95 pounds more than a year ago. The number of milk cows in the state, at 1.26 million, was 5,000 more than the previous year and 1,000 more than last month. As of May 1, 2010, Wisconsin had 12,770 licensed milk cow herds, down 66 from last month and down 449 from April 2009.

During April, milk production in the 23 major states totaled 15.2 billion pounds, an increase of 2 percent over April 2009. Milk per cow averaged 1,823 pounds, up 63 pounds. The number of milk cows was 8.33 million head. This is a decrease of 155,000 from last year, but 3,000 more than last month.

In April, Wisconsin had the greatest increase in milk production of any state except Washington. Michigan also had a large rise in production, increasing 5 percent. Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Idaho each rose by 3 percent, while New York had 2 percent more milk. California had no change in production when compared with last April, while New Mexico and Texas both decreased by 2 percent.

### April Milk Production

State	Milk cows 1/		Rate per cow 2/		Production 2/		Production % chnge 2010/09
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	
	Thousand head		Pounds		Million pounds		Percent
WI	1,256	1,261	1,650	1,745	2,072	2,200	+6
CA	1,821	1,752	1,885	1,960	3,433	3,434	n.c.
ID	551	554	1,800	1,850	992	1,025	+3
MI	356	357	1,865	1,955	664	698	+5
MN	468	470	1,605	1,650	751	776	+3
NM	332	323	2,070	2,090	687	675	-2
NY	623	610	1,670	1,735	1,040	1,058	+2
PA	549	541	1,640	1,710	900	925	+3
TX	430	410	1,810	1,855	778	761	-2
23-state total	8,480	8,325	1,760	1,823	14,922	15,178	+2

1/Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO.

## May 25, 2010 - Vol. 10, No. 11

### Inside This Issue:

- April Milk Production
- Specialty Cheese
- Livestock Slaughter
- Farm Labor
- Herds by Type of Milk Produced
- Cold Storage

*This Farm Reporter contains the results from the following surveys. Thanks for your help!*

**Milk Production Report**  
**Monthly Cold Storage Report**  
**Labor Report**

## Wisconsin Specialty Cheese Production Continues to Rise

In 2009, Wisconsin maintained its position as the nation's top cheese producing state, with 26 percent of the nation's total. At 477 million pounds, specialty cheese accounted for 18 percent of Wisconsin's total cheese production. This was an increase of 40 million pounds over 2008.



Of the state's 126 cheese plants, 92 manufactured at least one type of specialty cheese during 2009, up 4 plants from a year ago. Feta, with a 3 percent increase in production, was the state's most popular specialty cheese. Blue, Hispanic types, specialty Mozzarella varieties, Parmesan Wheel, and specialty Provolone cheeses were other popular categories.

Wisconsin cheese makers are known for offering a wide variety of high quality specialty cheeses. A specialty cheese is a value-added product which commands a premium price. According to the Wisconsin Specialty Cheese Institute, the nature of specialty cheese is derived from one or more unique qualities, such as exotic origin, particular processing or design, limited supply, unusual application or use, and extraordinary packaging or channel of sale. The common denominator is its very high quality.

**SPECIALTY CHEESE PRODUCTION  
Wisconsin, 2008 and 2009**

Type	No. of plants	2008 Production 1,000 lbs.	No. of plants	2009 Production 1,000 lbs.
Asiago	10	23,280	11	23,406
Cheddar 1/	28	18,353	32	23,860
Farmers	14	2,655	15	2,785
Feta	8	65,533	8	67,759
Italian Fontina	9	4,885	10	5,402
Hispanic	18	50,412	19	56,333
Limburger	1	645	1	554
Parmesan Wheel	8	45,629	8	41,941
Provolone 2/	5	35,131	5	34,525
Romano Wheel	9	10,503	9	10,339
All Other 3/	58	180,201	63	210,352
Total 4/	88	437,227	92	477,256

1/Includes only specialty types of this variety. 2/Includes Provolone aged > 60 days and other specialty Provolone. 3/Combined to avoid disclosure of individual plant data. Includes: American Grana, Auribella, Bel Pease, Blue, Brie, Butterkase, Camembert, specialty Colby, Edam, Fior di Latte, Fontiago, Fontinella, Gorgonzola, Gouda, Gruyere, Havarti, Italico, Juustoleipa, Knight's Veil, Kreme Kaese, Les Freres, Mascarpone, Middle Eastern cheeses, specialty Monterey Jack, Morning Sun, specialty Mozzarella, other specialty Parmesan, Pepato, Peperon, Raclette, other specialty Romano, Semi-soft, Swedish style Fontina, specialty Swiss, and Yogurt cheese. 4/Total cheese plants producing one or more specialty cheeses. Source: USDA, NASS WI FO

**Commercial Slaughter 1/, April 2010**

Species	Wisconsin 1,000 hd	Change from last year Percent	U. S. 1,000 hd	Change from last year Percent
Cattle, all	148.1	12	2,847.1	+3
Calves	8.3	2/	68.5	+1
Hogs, all	46.7	-	9,054.1	-4
Sheep and lambs	0.9	13	190.7	-17

1/Excludes farm slaughter. 2/Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

**Commercial Red Meat Production, United States 1/**

Type	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2010	Apr. 2010	Jan - Apr. 2/		Change from last year
				2009	2010	
	Million pounds					Percent
Beef	2,133	2,212	2,140	8,381	8,391	n.c.
Veal	11	12	11	46	46	-2
Pork	1,925	2,040	1,849	7,739	7,456	-4
Lamb & mutton	16	18	13	57	56	-3
Total red meat 3/	4,085	4,282	4,013	16,224	15,948	-2

1/Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

2/Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data. 3/Totals may not equal sum of the parts due to rounding. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO.

**Red Meat Production below Last Year**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.01 billion pounds in April, down 2 percent from the 4.09 billion pounds produced in April 2009.

Beef production, at 2.14 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.85 million head, up 3 percent from April 2009. The average live weight was down 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,253 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.1 million pounds, 1 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,500 head, up 1 percent from April 2009. The average live weight was down 6 pounds from last year, at 275 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.85 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.05 million head, down 4 percent from April 2009. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 273 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.0 million pounds, was down 16 percent from April 2009. Sheep slaughter totaled 190,700 head, 17 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 1 pound from April a year ago.

January to April 2010 commercial red meat production was 15.9 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2009. Accumulated beef production was up slightly from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was down 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

April 2009 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. April 2010 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

**Farm Labor**

The Lake Region (Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota) employed 62,000 agricultural workers during the week of April 11 - 17, 2010. Favorable weather was present in all three states during the reference week. This allowed spring fieldwork and planting activities to progress, and there was a strong demand for hired workers.

The average number of hours worked per employee in the Lake States was 37.4. The average wage rate for all hired agricultural workers was \$11.18 per hour, down 37 cents from the April 2009 reference week. An employee is classified as a livestock worker if they are hired to primarily tend livestock, milk cows, care for poultry, or operate machinery on livestock farms. Livestock workers in the Lake Region earned an average of \$10.18 per hour during the reference week. If an employee is hired primarily to plant and harvest crops, including operating machinery on crop farms, they are considered a field worker. Field workers in the Lake Region averaged \$10.95 per hour during the April reference week.

There were 997,000 people hired on U.S. farms and ranches the week of April 11 - 17, 2010. Of these workers, 737,000 were hired directly by farm operators. The remaining 260,000 people were hired for agricultural services. Some examples of agricultural service workers would be people who do custom fieldwork or planting, veterinarians, and artificial insemination technicians. The average number of hours worked for all hired workers was 39.8. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.83 per hour, down 1 cent from the April 2009 reference week. Field workers earned an average of \$10.04 per hour, while livestock workers averaged \$10.31 per hour.

**WISCONSIN MILK COW HERDS BY TYPE OF MILK PRODUCED**  
**Number and Percent, by County 1/**

County	Total Grade A		Total Grade B				Total herds
	Herds	Percent of Total	Herds			Percent of Total	
			Bulk	Can	Total		
Adams	18	95	1	0	1	5	19
Ashland	14	88	2	0	2	13	16
Barron	308	94	18	0	18	6	326
Bayfield	29	85	5	0	5	15	34
Brown	206	92	18	0	18	8	224
Buffalo	152	90	12	5	17	10	169
Burnett	40	93	3	0	3	7	43
Calumet	169	97	5	0	5	3	174
Chippewa	386	94	24	2	26	6	412
Clark	764	77	78	151	229	23	993
Columbia	121	83	6	18	24	17	145
Crawford	139	89	17	0	17	11	156
Dane	338	97	10	0	10	3	348
Dodge	362	98	6	0	6	2	368
Door	79	82	17	0	17	18	96
Douglas	11	92	1	0	1	8	12
Dunn	214	95	11	0	11	5	225
Eau Claire	123	65	16	50	66	35	189
Florence	7	100	0	0	0	0	7
Fond du Lac	337	98	6	0	6	2	343
Forest	1	50	1	0	1	50	2
Grant	443	93	31	0	31	7	474
Green	218	67	109	0	109	33	327
Green Lake	62	61	3	36	39	39	101
Iowa	219	88	29	0	29	12	248
Iron	5	100	0	0	0	0	5
Jackson	132	75	15	28	43	25	175
Jefferson	123	99	1	0	1	1	124
Juneau	78	89	10	0	10	11	88
Kenosha	30	97	1	0	1	3	31
Kewaunee	197	89	24	1	25	11	222
La Crosse	108	98	2	0	2	2	110
Lafayette	240	80	58	1	59	20	299
Langlade	61	94	4	0	4	6	65
Lincoln	49	80	12	0	12	20	61
Manitowoc	290	94	20	0	20	6	310
Marathon	634	85	110	0	110	15	744
Marinette	80	94	5	0	5	6	85
Marquette	41	79	6	5	11	21	52
Milwaukee	3	100	0	0	0	0	3
Monroe	248	63	0	146	146	37	394
Oconto	166	93	12	0	12	7	178
Oneida	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
Outagamie	238	91	23	0	23	9	261
Ozaukee	67	96	3	0	3	4	70
Pepin	81	94	4	1	5	6	86
Pierce	174	95	10	0	10	5	184
Polk	165	98	3	0	3	2	168
Portage	131	86	21	0	21	14	152
Price	49	79	13	0	13	21	62
Racine	38	100	0	0	0	0	38
Richland	135	78	31	8	39	22	174
Rock	112	93	8	0	8	7	120
Rusk	150	91	15	0	15	9	165
St. Croix	182	95	9	0	9	5	191
Sauk	227	90	26	0	26	10	253
Sawyer	24	96	1	0	1	4	25
Shawano	363	94	25	0	25	6	388

**WISCONSIN MILK COW HERDS BY TYPE OF MILK PRODUCED**  
**Number and Percent, by County 1/ (Continued)**

County	Total Grade A		Total Grade B				Total herds
	Herds	Percent of total	Herds			Percent of total	
			Bulk	Can	Total		
Sheboygan	179	93	14	0	14	7	193
Taylor	244	87	37	1	38	13	282
Trempealeau	207	89	23	3	26	11	233
Vernon	249	53	37	181	218	47	467
Walworth	93	98	2	0	2	2	95
Washburn	29	97	1	0	1	3	30
Washington	116	98	2	0	2	2	118
Waukesha	35	100	0	0	0	0	35
Waupaca	198	90	23	0	23	10	221
Waushara	56	90	6	0	6	10	62
Winnebago	95	84	18	0	18	16	113
Wood	224	89	29	0	29	11	253
Wisconsin	11,106	87	1,093	637	1,730	13	12,836

1/Based on data from the Dairy Producer License list as of April 1, 2010, Division of Food Safety, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

**Cold Storage Stocks, United States**

Commodity	April 30, 2009	March 31, 2010	April 30, 2010	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
CHEESE				
American	577,391	602,067	613,976	+6
Swiss	22,855	26,950	26,252	+15
Other natural	338,668	365,442	371,430	+10
Total	938,914	994,459	1,011,658	+8
BUTTER	240,044	195,888	207,578	-14
FROZEN				
Beef	410,705	384,596	373,313	-9
Pork	612,290	513,066	482,524	-21
Chicken	658,243	616,158	623,924	-5
Turkey	571,708	379,720	422,198	-26

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER (USPS 398-970) (ISSN 0043-6461) is published twice monthly by Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718. Subscription is \$12 per year to non-reporters. Periodicals postage paid at Madison, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER, PO Box 8934, Madison, WI 53708.

**PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID  
AT MADISON, WISCONSIN**